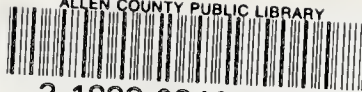


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HISTORY OF MCCULLY, MCKEE(MCKAY) AND HARSH FAMILIES IN AMERICA

WRITTEN BY

GRACE S. HARSH
May 1946

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McGill, McKee and Harsh Families in
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THE HISTORY OF OUR FAMILY

MCCULLY MCKEE (MCKAY) AND HARSH FAMILIES IN AMERICA

CRESTON, IOWA

MAY, 1946

WRITTEN BY GRACE S. HARSH FROM NOTES AND RESEARCH PROVIDED BY THE RECOLLECTIONS OF HER GRANDMOTHER, NANCY MCKAY HARSH.

ALSO FROM JOHN M. F. HANA OF WASHINGTON PA. RESULTS OF SEARCHING RECORDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTERS FROM DISTANT COUSINS OF MCKAY FAMILY AND OTHER SOURCES.

NOTES MADE AT FAMILY REUNIONS FROM RECOLLECTIONS AS WELL AS FROM GRANDMOTHER HARSH HERSELF. THIS STORY HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR GENERAL FAMILY HISTORY. THE GENEALOGICAL FACTS AND NOTES ARE PRESERVED ON OTHER PAGES.

MCCULLY FAMILY

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HAD BEEN FOUGHT AND WON, AND A NEW NATION WAS IN THE WORLD'S SPOTLIGHT, A REPUBLIC, GOVERNED BY THE PEOPLE, INDEPENDENT OF RULERS.

IT WAS AN EXPERIMENT WITHOUT PRECEDENT TO GUIDE ITS ACTION, BUT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WAS A BEACON WHICH BECKONED THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE WHO SOUGHT FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THEIR POSTERITY.

IN COUNTY DOWN IRELAND ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER BAN, FRANCIS MCCULLY LIVED ON THE KAREN ESTATE NEAR THE TOWN OF TENDREEGE.

THE ESTATE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIS FATHER ROBERT (?) MCCULLY IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE RENDERED IN WAR. THE GRANT OR TITLE READ "TO ROBERT (?) MCCULLY AND HIS HEIRS AS LONG AS THE BAN WATER FLOWS." THE ESTATE WAS SITUATED "1 MILE FROM TENOREGEE AND 4 MILES FROM BAN BRIDGE ON THE BAN BETWEEN THE TWO LOCHS, ONE HALF OF EACH LOCH, BETWEEN THE TWO LOCHS."

WHEN FRANCIS MCCULLY AND JANE BIGHAM WERE MARRIED AT KILKENNY MURRAY, IRELAND, HE BROUGHT HIS BRIDE TO THE KAREN ESTATE WHICH HIS FATHER HAD GIVEN HIM AS A WEDDING GIFT, I BELIEVE. HERE FRANCIS LIVED THE LIFE OF A GENTLEMAN FARMER OF THAT DAY AND JANE LOOKED AFTER THE MAIDS AND SUPERINTENDED THE WORK OF THE DAIRY AND WEAVING ROOM. SHE WAS HAPPY AND CONTENT WITH HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN AND SHE LOVED HER HOME ON THE KAREN ESTATE. SHE HAD "13 BIRTHS, INCLUDING THREE PAIR OF TWINS". ONLY FIVE OF THESE CHILDREN LIVED TO MATURITY. (I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY PAIR LIVED OR WHETHER ANY ONE OF THEM LIVED. I ASKED MY GRANDMOTHER ONCE BUT SHE DID NOT KNOW. HER GRANDMOTHER JANE MCCULLY HAD TOLD HER OF THE "13 BIRTHS AND THREE PAIR OF TWINS.")). IN 1790 THE FAMILY CONSISTED OF FRANCIS AND HIS WIFE JANE AND THEIR FIVE CHILDREN. THE ELDEST, A DAUGHTER MARGARET, HAD MARRIED THE SON OF A DOCTOR, MCCLAVEY BY NAME, BUT HE HAD BECOME AN INCURABLE INVALID, AND MARGARET WIDOWED, LIVED AT HOME. THE SECOND DAUGHTER, JANE, WAS MARRIED TO WILLIAM FITZWILLIAM "AN EARL'S GRANSON." THEY HAD TWO GIRLS, SARAH AND MARGARET. THE ONLY SON, CHARLES, WAS UNMARRIED AND ALSO MARY WHO WAS ABOUT 21 ACCORDING TO THE DATES ON HER TOMBSTONE, BUT THE FAMILY TRADITION SAID SHE WAS 19 YEARS OF AGE. THE YOUNGEST CHILD NANCY, WAS ABOUT 12.

IN THE EARLY PART OF THE YEAR 1790 FRANCIS McCULLY DECIDED TO LEAVE IRELAND AND GO TO AMERICA, "TO TAKE HIS CHILDREN OUT OF BONDAGE" TO QUOTE HIS OWN WORDS. HE WAS 52 YEARS OLD AND HIS WIFE 50. SHE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE UP HER HOME AND THE COMFORTS TO WHICH SHE WAS ACCUSTOMED. SHE DISLIKED THE IDEA OF LEAVING WHAT SHE KNEW FOR THE UNKNOWN. SHE DID NOT WANT TO GO TO A NEW COUNTRY WITH AN UNTRIED GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISH A HOME IN THE WILDERNESS OF AMERICA. SHE PLEASED TO STAY IN IRELAND, BUT FRANCIS HAD MADE UP HIS MIND TO GO; SO HE SOLD THE KAREN ESTATE TO ETHELSON DAWSON, AND IN MAY 1790, THE FAMILY SAILED ON THE "LAZY MARY" FROM NUREY IRELAND. A LONG VOYAGE OF 9 WEEKS AT SEA FINALLY ENDED IN JULY 1790 WHEN THE "LAZY MARY" DOCKED AT NEWCASTLE, MARYLAND. (MY GRANDMOTHER SEEMED TO THINK THAT THE FAMILY STAYED ABOUT TWO YEARS IN MARYLAND, BUT AS THE STATE LINES WERE MUCH MIXED UP AT THAT TIME, I THINK THEY SETTLED IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS, FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA CENSUS 1790 LISTS FRANCIS McCULLY AS OF PENNSYLVANIA. THERE WAS NO OTHER FRANCIS McCULLY IN THE CENSUS THAT I COULD FIND.)

THE CENSUS OF PENNSYLVANIA 1790 GIVES FRANCIS McCULLY ON PAGE 67 AS A RESIDENT OF LONOONGROVE TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA. PHILADELPHIA WAS THE BIG CITY OF THE UNITED STATES AT THAT TIME AND THIS WAS NEAR PHILADELPHIA. IN THE SAME CENSUS REPORT, THE NAME OF JOSEPH EBERHARD WAS THE NAME OF THE MAN THAT MARGARET McCULLY MCCLAVEY MARRIED AFTER SHE CAME TO AMERICA. THE SON CHARLES TOOK UP 400 ACRES OF LAND IN MERCER COUNTY IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER FRANCIS McCULLY EVER BOUGHT LAND IN MERCER COUNTY, BUT SINCE HE WAS BURIED THERE, I FANCY THAT THE FAMILY FOLLOWED CHARLES WHO MARRIED AND RAISED A LARGE FAMILY. FRANCIS LIKED AMERICA, BUT HIS WIFE WAS VERY UNHAPPY IN THE NEW COUNTRY, AND AFTER HIS DEATH WHEN SHE LIVED WITH HER DAUGHTER MARY, SHE TOLD MANY OF HER THOUGHTS TO HER LITTLE GRANDDAUGHTER NANCY MCKAY (MY GRANDMOTHER). IT WAS FROM HER THAT I GLEANED THESE BITS OF FAMILY HISTORY AND TRADITION. JANE BIGHAM McCULLY LOVED TO TALK OF HER OLD HOME WHERE HER FAMILY BELONGED TO THE ORANGEMEN AND TOOK PART IN THE PARADES, AND WHO HATED THE IRISH CATHOLICS. SHE TOLD ABOUT A COUSIN WHO "WAS RAISED IN HER FATHER'S HOME" AND WAS MENTIONED IN ONE OF THE FOLKSONGS DESCRIBING A PARADE OF THE ORANGEMEN. IT RAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

"THE FIRST THAT DID APPEAR WAS THE BRIDE'S MAN ON HIS BAY MARE
AND HE LOOKED SO WELL AND HIS COLOR CLEAR
HE WASN'T CONCERNED WITH THE POWOER OR BEER.
AND THE NEXT MAN THAT FOLLOWED HIM
WAS YOUNG WILLIAM TALL AND TRIM
WITH HIS YELLOW HAIR TO HIS MID-BACK
AND HE RODE ^{home} THE NIMBLE BLACK."

LITTLE NANCY HEARD THESE STORIES OF THE OLD HOME IN IRELAND AND THEY MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSION ON HER YOUNG MIND THAT SHE NEVER FORGOT THEM.

HER GRANDMOTHER HAD A BROTHER HUGH BIGHAM WHO WAS A "KING'S COUNCILLER" OR A LAWYER WE WOULD SAY. SHE WAS VERY PROUD OF THIS BROTHER.

JANE McCULLY WAS USED TO NICE THINGS AND HER DAINTY CAPS OF WHITE LACE WERE TRIMMED WITH PINK OR BLUE RIBBONS, AND SHE WAS NEVER WITHOUT ONE ON HER HEAD IN THE DAYTIME. I SUPPOSE SHE WORE THE USUAL WHITE MUSLIN AND LACE TRIMMED NIGHT CAP. WHEN CHARLES McCULLY WENT TO MERCER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA TO LIVE ON HIS LAND, HIS PARENTS STAYED IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA. HIS SISTER MARY WENT TO VISIT HIM AND WHILE THERE SHE MET A YOUNG WIDOWER FROM MARYLAND. HE WAS A SLAVE OWNER AND LIKE OTHERS OF THAT DAY HE BROUGHT HIS SLAVES UP TO MERCER COUNTY TO WORK ON HIS PENNSYLVANIA LAND. THE CUSTOM WAS TO BRING THE BLACK WORKERS FOR A TIME (I THINK TWO YEARS WAS THE LIMIT) AND THEN RETURN THEM TO MARYLAND AND BRING A FRESH GROUP. PENNSYLVANIA

WAS A FREE STATE AND NO SLAVES ALLOWED EXCEPT FOR A "VISIT" AS IT WERE. BEYOND THE TIME LIMIT, THEY BECAME FREE AUTOMATICALLY. NOW MARY MCCULLY LIKE HER FATHER, WAS A BELIEVER IN FREEDOM, SO WHEN SHE MET WILLIAM MCKEE (MCKAY) SHE DISAPPROVED OF THE SLAVE OWNERSHIP AND DID NOT HESITATE TO SAY SO. WILLIAM FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SMALL AUBURN HAired GIRL WITH SUCH A SPIRITED PERSONALITY, AND IN A SHORT TIME ASKED HER TO BE HIS WIFE. SHE GAVE HER CONSENT ON CONDITION THAT HE FREE HIS SLAVES HE HAD (IN PA. AT LEAST), AND I BELIEVE HE FREED THEM ALL AND NEVER WENT BACK TO MARYLAND TO LIVE. THE BLACK PEOPLE REMAINED HIS FAITHFUL SERVANTS TILL HIS DEATH. IT WAS IN 1792 IN MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA THAT WILLIAM MCKEE AND MARY MCCULLY WERE MARRIED. I RATHER IMAGINE THAT THEY WERE MARRIED AT HER BROTHER'S HOME, FOR HE HAD MARRIED A "KLIGGEN" OR "KLIGEN" AND HAD A LARGE FAMILY OF CHILDREN BEFORE HE MOVED TO OHIO. WILLIAM MCKAY HAD SERVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WITH MARYLAND TROOPS UNDER GENERAL HUGH MERCER. HE HAD BEEN MARRIED AND HAD A SON SAMUEL MCKAY BY HIS FIRST WIFE. THE BOY WAS RAISED BY HIS MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS, I BELIEVE.

WILLIAM MCKAY HAD A BACHELOR BROTHER SAMUEL AND TWO SISTERS, FANNIE WHO MARRIED A MCKINNEY AND LIVED AT MEADETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA NEAR CONNEAUT LAKE, AND PHYLLIS WHOSE NAME I DO NOT KNOW. WHEN MARY WAS MARRIED SHE MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT 23 YEARS OLD AND FAMILY TRADITION SAYS SHE WAS 26 YEARS OLD WHEN HER HUSBAND TOOK HER TO MARYLAND TO VISIT HIS PEOPLE. WHILE THERE SHE AND HE SAT FOR THEIR PORTRAITS TO AN ARTIST WHOSE NAME I NEVER LEARNED. MARY WAS A DAINTY FAIR HAired AND FAIR SKINNED WOMAN WITH LARGE BLUE EYES AND AN EXTREMELY LONG SLENDER NECK MUCH ADMIRIED AT THAT TIME. HER PORTRAIT WAS PAINTED ON CANVAS BUT IN PASTEL AND NOT OIL. SHE WORE A RIDING HABIT OF SUCH A GLORIFIED STYLE AS IS NEVER SEEN NOW. ITS LOW CUT BODICE HAD A FICHU FINISH AND HER HAIR (INCLINED TO RED GOLD OR AUBURN) IN ITS NATURAL SOFT SHORT CURLS FRAMED A SMALL FACE WITH A TINY MOUTH OF PRETTY CURVES. ALL HER FEATURES EXCEPT HER LARGE LOVELY EYES WERE SMALL. A JAUNTY CAP WITH A TRAILING PLUME ADORNED HER LITTLE HEAD. THE WHOLE PICTURE IS A CAPTIVATING ONE AND RESEMBLES THE PORTRAITS OF THE BEAUTIES PAINTED BY GAINSBOROUGH. MARY WAS VERY PROUD OF THIS PORTRAIT AND CARRIED IT WITH HER WHENEVER SHE WENT ON HER LONG VISITS TO HER DAUGHTERS WITH WHOM SHE LIVED AFTER HER HUSBAND'S DEATH AND THE MARRIAGES OF HER GIRLS. THE COMPANION PICTURE OF HER HUSBAND WAS LOST OR BURNED IN THE BIG FIRE IN WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA OR PITTSBURG. MARY MCKAY'S PICTURE WAS LEFT BY HER ON HER LAST VISIT TO HER DAUGHTER NANCY NEAR TISKILWA, ILLINOIS. SHE LEFT HURRIEDLY AND THE PICTURE WAS NOT TAKEN, BUT AGAINST HER PROTESTS. SHE WAS RETURNING TO HER DAUGHTER MARGARET HALLAM'S IN EUREKA, ILLINOIS. SHE WAS TAKEN ILL NOT SO LONG AFTER AND PASSED AWAY AND WAS BURIED IN EUREKA, ILLINOIS IN 1852, 1862

GRANDMOTHER HARSH CAME TO IOWA SOON AFTER THIS LAST VISIT OF HER MOTHER, AND HER SON WILLIAM HARSH LIVED IN HER OLD HOME. THE PICTURE WAS STORED UNDER THE EAVES IN THE UPPER ROOM AND THE RAIN BEAT IN AND SPOTTED THE PICTURE WHOSE PROTECTING GLASS HAD BEEN BROKEN. IT REMAINED THERE FORGOTTEN AND NEGLECTED TILL HER GRANDSON J. B. HARSH OF CRESTON, IOWA RESCUED IT ON A VISIT TO HIS BROTHER'S HOME. HE BROUGHT IT TO GALESBURG AND REPLACED THE GLASS AND BROUGHT THE PICTURE HOME WITH HIM. THIS WAS IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES AND IT HUNG IN HIS HOME TILL HIS DEATH, AND IS NOW MY OWN CHERISHED POSSESSION, 1946.

AFTER MARY MCCULLY MCKAY AND HER HUSBAND CAME BACK FROM MARYLAND, THEY CONTINUED TO LIVE AT SHENANGO MERCER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA, UNTIL AFTER 1810 WHEN THEY MOVED TO PITTSBURG WHERE WILLIAM MCKAY "WAS A SQUIRE FOR LIFE." HE WAS EMPLOYED IN THE CUSTOM HOUSE UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1815. THE MCKAYS HAD NO SON, BUT SIX DAUGHTERS WERE BORN TO THEM, THE YOUNGEST MARY BEING A MERE BABY, OR AS HER DAUGHTER JANE AMON THOUGHT, SHE WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS OLD WHEN HER FATHER DIED. WHILE THE FAMILY LIVED IN PITTSBURGH AND AFTER THEY MOVED TO WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA THEY STILL HAD THE "BLACK PEOPLE" AS NANCY CALLED THEM, FOR FAMILY SERVANTS. THE FAMILY OF GIRLS WERE WELL CARED FOR AND RAISED IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF "GENTLE FOLK".

GRANDMOTHER RECALLED A SMALL BOY ABOUT HER OWN AGE OF WHOM SHE WAS JEALOUS BECAUSE OF HER FATHER'S FONDNESS FOR HIM, BUT I THINK HE DID NOT REMAIN WITH THE FAMILY AFTER MCKAY'S DEATH.

BEFORE HIS DEATH WILLIAM ADVISED HIS WIFE TO MOVE TO WASHINGTON, PA., WHERE TWO OF HER SISTERS LIVED, SO THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE HELP WITH HER FAMILY. THE FUNERAL TOOK PLACE IN PITTSBURGH AND WAS CONDUCTED BY THE MASONS AS WELL AS THE PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER.

LITTLE NANCY HELD TO HER BLACK NURSE'S HAND AND WATCHED THE STRANGE PROCESSION WITH THE MEN IN LITTLE WHITE APRONS. THAT WAS ALL SHE COULD RECALL OF HER FATHER'S FUNERAL. HE WAS BURIED IN HERRON'S CHURCH GRAVEYARD ON WOOD'S STREET IN PITTSBURGH. OF COURSE SINCE THE FAMILY WERE ALL STRONG PRESBYTERIANS THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A CHURCH OF THAT DENOMINATION. THE CHURCH AND THE BURYING GROUND ARE GONE AND A DEPARTMENT STORE OCCUPIES PART OF THE GROUND. AT LEAST IT DID IN 1920. A FRIEND OF MINE ON A VISIT TO PITTSBURGH LOOKED UP THE HISTORY AND FOUND THAT THE OLD TOMBSTONES HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY AND SOME OF THEM AND TABLETS HAD BEEN PLACED IN A NEW CHURCH (THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON PART OF THE SAME GROUND) BUT SHE FOUND NO TRACE OF WILLIAM MCKAY'S GRAVE. IT MAY NEVER HAVE HAD A MARKER, AND ANYWAY IT HAD BEEN MORE THAN A CENTURY SINCE HIS DEATH.

THE PITTSBURGH HOME WAS BROKEN UP AND THE FATHERLESS FAMILY WENT TO LIVE IN WASHINGTON, WHERE THE SISTERS OF MARY, JANE FITZWILLIAM AND NANCY LEMOYNE HAD HOMES. GRANDMOTHER REMEMBERED THE TRIP FROM PITTSBURGH WHEN SHE RODE IN THE ARMS OF HER SISTER WHO MADE THE JOURNEY ON HORSEBACK.

THE FAMILY SETTLED IN WASHINGTON AND THE RELATIVES WERE KIND AND HELPFUL TO THE WIDOW WHO WAS WELL OFF FINANCIALLY, I IMAGINE. IT WAS HERE THAT HER MOTHER JANE MCCULLY CAME TO LIVE WITH HER AND WHERE NANCY HEARD SO MUCH FAMILY HISTORY. NANCY STAYED WITH HER "AUNT EBERHARD" FOR LONG VISITS AND MAY HAVE HEARD SOME THERE. I DO NOT THINK THAT NANCY REMEMBERED HER GRANDFATHER MCCULLY AT ALL.

"AUNT EBERHARD" HAD NO CHILDREN AND "AUNT LEMOYNE" HAD ONLY ONE SON, SO THESE TWO AUNTS OFTEN KEPT THE GIRLS FOR LONG VISITS. THE TWO OLDER GIRLS WERE MARRIED SOON, JEMIMA MARRIED A MCCLARY PERHAPS ABOUT 1817 AND MARGARET MARRIED CHARLES HALLAM ABOUT 1820 SO JANE THE THIRD GIRL STAYED WITH HER "AUNT LEMOYNE" AND BECAME ENGAGED TO A YOUNG DR. DAY, BUT ILLNESS CAME AND SHE PASSED AWAY WITH "CONSUMPTION" BEFORE THE APPOINTED WEDDING DAY. THE LEMOYNES WERE PROMINENT AND WEALTHY PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON AND JANE HAD BEEN SURROUNDED BY SUCH LUXURIES AS THE TIME AFFORDED. HER AUNT HAD PURCHASED HER WEDDING OUTFIT AND PLANNED A FINE WEDDING.

GRANDMOTHER HAD A SMALL BRUSH FROM THE TROUSSEAU AS A MEMENTO. IT WAS COVERED WITH GREEN VELVET ON THE BACK AND A SMALL MIRROR WAS ATTACHED TO THE BACK. IT WAS A FORERUNNER, PERHAPS OF THE COMPACT OR PURSE MIRROR. THE VELVET AND THE MIRROR ARE GONE BUT THE LITTLE BRUSH IS GOOD TODAY.

THE LEMOYNES HAD AN IMPOSING HOME ON EAST MAIDEN STREET #49 SURROUNDED BY LARGE GARDENS AND GROUNDS. DR. JOHN JULIUS LEMOYNE WAS A FRENCHMAN OF CULTURE AND ADVANCED IDEAS. HE AND NANCY MCCULLY, THE YOUNGEST OF THE FAMILY WHO CAME FROM IRELAND WERE MARRIED IN 1797. THEY HAD ONE SON FRANCIS JULIUS LEMOYNE WHO FOLLOWED HIS FATHER'S PROFESSION. THEIR HOME BUILT IN 1812 WAS FILLED WITH LOVELY FURNITURE AND PICTURES. MOST OF THE LARGE GROUNDS ARE NOW A PARK HAVING BEEN GIVEN TO THE CITY BY DR. FRANCIS J. LEMOYNE WHO ALSO GAVE THE CITY ITS LIBRARY. (I HAD A LITTLE CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS DAUGHTER MRS. GEORGE W. REED WHO WAS LIVING IN THE OLD HOME IN THE TWENTIES AND THIRTIES. SHE WAS IN HER NINETIES, I THINK AT THAT TIME. SHE GAVE ME SOME INFORMATION I NEEDED AND I WAS ABLE TO GIVE HER FACTS ABOUT HER GRANDMOTHER. SHE SENT ME A COPY OF A MINIATURE OF HER GRANDMOTHER NANCY MCCULLY LEMOYNE. THEY CALLED IT "MAMMA'S MINIATURE." IT WAS DONE WHEN HER FATHER "WAS ABOUT 20".)

GRANDMOTHER WAS NAMED FOR HER AUNT NANCY AND WAS QUITE FOND OF HER. SHE WAS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF HER COUSIN DR. FRANCIS JULIUS LEMOYNE. HE WAS A STRONG ADDITIONIST AND DURING THE YEARS

PRECEDING THE WAR OF THE REBELLION, HE WAS ACTIVE IN THE PARTY. HIS ABOLITION IDEAS WERE SO UNPOPULAR THAT ONE NIGHT A MOB GATHERED AT HIS HOME AND WERE BEGINNING TO BE VIOLENT. DR. LEMOYNE SENT HIS SERVANT TO THE GARDEN FOR A HIVE OF BEES.[#] HE THEN HAD THE HIVE THROWN FROM A SECOND STORY BALCONY DOWN ON THE CROWD. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE ANGRY BEES ROUTED THE CROWD AND NOTHING MORE HAPPENED. DR. LEMOYNE WAS A CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT ON THE ABOLITION TICKET HEADED BY JAMES G. BIRNEY. OF COURSE THESE EARLY ABOLITIONISTS DID THE SPADE WORK FOR THE FINAL ABOLITION OF SLAVERY. DR. LEMOYNE ALSO SHOCKED HIS COMMUNITY AND THE WHOLE UNITED STATES WHEN HE HAD A SMALL BRICK CREMATORY BUILT IN WASHINGTON IN 1876, FOR IT WAS THE FIRST BUILT IN AMERICA. HIS WAS THE THIRD BODY CREMATED IN HIS OWN CREMATORY. HE DIED IN 1879 AND HIS ASHES ARE BURIED BENEATH A STONE MONUMENT IN FRONT OF THE LITTLE BRICK CREMATORY.

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IN 1824 WHEN LAFAYETTE CAME TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES HE HAD HELPED TO FORM, HE VISITED WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA WHICH CLAIMS TO BE THE FIRST TOWN NAMED FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON. (THE RESIDENTS CALLED IT "LITTLE WASHINGTON TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.)

DURING THE RECEPTIONS AND PARADES IN HONOR OF THE DISTINGUISHED FRENCHMAN, FLOWER GIRLS REPRESENTING THE STATES OF THE UNION, STREWED FLOWERS FOR LAFAYETTE. THESE FLOWERS CAME FROM THE GARDENS OF DR. JOHN JULIUS LEMOYNE, GRANDMOTHER'S UNCLE. GRANDMOTHER, HERSELF, WAS ONE OF THE LITTLE GIRLS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS THAT SCATTERED THE FLOWERS, THE GALLANT GENERAL OFFERED THE KISS OF GREETING TO THE LITTLE GIRLS, BUT GRANDMOTHER REFUSED IT. STRANGE THAT SHE DID NOT CONSIDER IT AN HONOR, BUT A FAMILIARITY. I HAVE WONDERED IF SHE DID NOT REGRET IT IN LATER YEARS.

THE FITZWILLIAM COUSINS WERE THE ARISTOCRATIC BRANCH OF THE FAMILY, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE "EARL" IN THE FAMILY BACKGROUND. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THEM AND AS THEY WERE OLDER, THE FIRST COUSIN'S CHILDREN WERE NEARER GRANDMOTHER'S AGE. ONE OF THESE, RICHARD FITZWILLIAM, VISITED GRANDMOTHER ONCE AND DID NOT SEEM MUCH YOUNGER THAN SHE. HE WAS A WIDOWER AND WELL TO DO. THE FITZWILLIAM FAMILY STILL HAD MANY OF ITS MEMBERS LIVING IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME. GRANDMOTHER SAW HER OLDER SISTERS MARRIED, AND SAW THEM DEPART FOR THE WEST - OHIO. JEMIMA WROTE BACK THAT WHEN SHE SAW THE MOON SHE FELT NEARER HER MOTHER AND SISTERS, FOR SHE KNEW IT WAS SHINING ON THEM, THE SAME MOON.

IN THE HOME THAT GRANDMOTHER REMEMBERED, THE NEWEL POSTS HAD THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE BIGHAMS, "A RED HAND AND DAGGER" ON ONE POST AND THE MCCULLY ARMS "A HOG'S HEAD (BOAR'S HEAD) AND THISTLE" ON THE OTHER.

THERE WERE NO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SHE ATTENDED A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN THE MORNINGS AND STUDIED READING, WRITING, SPELLING AND ARITHMETIC. IN THE AFTERNOONS SHE WENT TO A "DAME'S SCHOOL" FOR NEEDLE WORK AND FANCY WORK INSTRUCTION.

AT HOME SHE LEARNED TO DO UP THE LACE AND MUSLINS WHICH WERE STARCHED WITH FLOUR OR GUMARABIC HOME-MADE STARCH, AND PULLED INTO PLACE AND HANDPRESSED, NEVER AN IRON PERMITTED TO TOUCH THE DELICATE MESHES. JELLIES AND CAKES AND FINE PUDDINGS WERE MADE AND THE GIRLS LEARNED ALL THE NICE FINE WORK, BUT DID NOTHING HEAVY OR REALLY HARD. THE BLACK PEOPLE STILL SERVED THEM. MARY MCKAY HERSELF NEVER DID ANY WORK SUCH AS THE PIONEER WOMEN DID, NOR SUCH AS HER DAUGHTERS DID WHEN THEY BECAME PIONEER WOMEN IN OHIO AND ILLINOIS.

MARY ALWAYS WORE WHITE LACE CAPS LIKE HER MOTHER'S EXCEPT THAT HER RIBBONS WERE LAVENDER OR PURPLE INSTEAD OF PINK OR BLUE. SHE WAS VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THEIR CARE, AND IT SEEMED THAT SHE ALWAYS WANTED THEM LAUNDERED WHEN WORK WAS MOST PUSHING IN HER DAUGHTER'S HOME ON THE FARM.

NANCY AND HER SISTER MARGARET WERE DARK HAired AND DARK EYED AND THE OTHER SISTERS WERE FAIR LIKE THEIR MOTHER. THEY WERE NOT PLEASING TO THEIR MOTHER'S EYES AND SHE CALLED THEM "UGLY LITTLE BLACK THINGS." SHE^{WAS} EVIDENTLY WAS A WORSHIPPER OF FAIR BEAUTY ONLY. NANCY AND HER

[#]HIS DAUGHTERS SAID THE HIVE WAS NOT THROWN -- ONLY HELD IN READINESS.

YOUNGEST SISTER MARY WERE LEFT ALONE AFTER THE OLDER SISTERS WERE MARRIED AND JANE DIED. THEY LIVED COMFORTABLY AND PLEASANTLY IN THEIR WASHINGTON HOME WITH MANY RELATIVES TO VISIT. WHEN COMPANY CAME SMALL GLASSES OF WINE WITH LITTLE CAKES WERE SERVED ON A LARGE TRAY. THIS TRAY WAS PAINTED WITH A PICTURE OF THE NATIVITY. THE RIM WAS PAINTED WITH SMALL FLOWERS OR BLOSSOMS. I WISH I HAD SEEN IT IN ITS EARLY FRESHNESS. IT WAS USED TO DRY CORN ON AT ONE TIME AND NEARLY RUINED. I HAVE IT NOW AND ALSO A YARD STICK BOTH OF WHICH BELONGED TO MARY McCULLY MCKAY, MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER. I SHOULD NOT WONDER IF THE TRAY HAD ONCE BELONGED TO MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER, JANE BIGHAM McCULLY, AND PERHAPS CAME FROM IRELAND. I NEVER ASKED GRANDMOTHER SO I ONLY KNOW IT WAS HER MOTHER'S.

WHILE JANE McCULLY HAD THREE SETS OF TWINS, I THINK THAT NONE OF HER CHILDREN HAD TWINS, BUT HER GRANDCHILDREN DID. IN SEVERAL LINES OF DESCENT THE TWINS APPEAR FREQUENTLY, BUT NONE IN OUR BRANCH. THE SISTER MARGARET WHO MARRIED HALLAM HAD TWINS AND HER SONS AND GRANDCHILDREN HAD A NUMBER OF TWINS. THERE WERE TWINS IN BETSEY MOUNTS FAMILY AND MARY ALEXANDER'S, BOTH SISTERS OF GRANDMOTHER. THAT IS THREE OF GRANDMA'S SISTERS HAD TWINS AND THEIR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN DID TOO. BETSEY WAS THE FOURTH DAUGHTER OF MARY AND WILLIAM MCKAY AND SHE MARRIED A MOUNTS AND STAYED IN WASHINGTON. SHE HAD TWIN SONS KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF PITTSBURGH LANDING DURING THE WAR OF THE REBELLION. HER DAUGHTER NANCY MARRIED A MAN NAMED JOHNSTON AND SHE VISITED GRANDMOTHER IN CRESTON IN THE LATE EIGHTIES. HER SISTER MARRIED AN AGNEW AND THEY ALL REMAINED IN PENNSYLVANIA. GRANDMOTHER'S SISTER MARGARET HALLAM WHO WAS MUCH OLDER THAN SHE, LIVED TO BE OVER NINETY AND GRANDMA WENT TO VISIT HER EVERY FEW YEARS. THERE WERE LOTS OF TWINS IN MARGARET'S LINE OF DESCENT. I HAVE MET SEVERAL OF THEM CHARLES HALLAM WAS QUITE WELL TO DO AND RAISED A LARGE FAMILY OF HIS OWN AND SOME OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN TOO. THE HALLAMS BELONGED TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. (MY GRANDMOTHER CALLED THEM CAMPBELLITES WHICH THEY DID NOT RELISH).

WHEN MARY McCULLY'S FAMILY WERE GROWING UP AND AFTERWARD THE NAME MCKEE WAS ALWAYS USED. GRANDMOTHER IN HER LATER YEARS INSISTED THE NAME WAS MCKAY AND THAT HER MOTHER HAD "WHITTLED IT DOWN TO MCKEE". I COULD NEVER SEE WHERE THE "WHITTLING" CAME, BUT I THINK SHE WAS PROBABLY RIGHT. SHE SAID SHE MET A MAN WHILE WAITING IN EDDYVILLE OR OTTUMWA, IOWA DEPOT, WHO WAS HER HALF BROTHER SAMUEL MCKAY. HE HAD CONFIRMED THE FACT THAT THE NAME WAS MCKAY.

IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF MARYLAND AND THE SOUTH THERE WERE MCKAYS WHO WERE SCOTCH, AS WAS GREAT GRANDFATHER WILLIAM MCKAY. HE WAS PROUD OF HIS ANCESTRY AND THAT IT "TRACED BACK TO THE JAMES RIVER SETTLEMENT." THAT OF COURSE ANTEDATED THE PILGRIMS MANY YEARS. I HAVE NEVER MADE ANY RESEARCH INTO THE MCKAY FAMILY, BUT I RATHER ACCEPT THE MCKAY, ALTHOUGH THE RECORDS IN GRANDMOTHER'S BIBLE WRITTEN BY HER HUSBAND USED THE NAME MCKEE. HER SONS JAMES B. AND ANDREW F. HARSH HAD THE MCKAY ON HER TOMBSTONE.

GRANDMOTHER'S YOUNGEST SISTER MARRIED A WASHINGTON MAN (I THINK) THOS. ALEXANDER, BUT SHE DIED DURING THE 60'S AND LEFT TWO CHILDREN, A GIRL JANE AND A BOY WILLIAM. JANE MARRIED A MAN NAMED AMON AND LIVED IN WASHINGTON. SHE HAD ONE SON WHO HAD TWIN SONS AND A DAUGHTER BY HIS FIRST WIFE. WILLIAM J. ALEXANDER WAS A TEACHER AND COLLEGE PROFESSOR AND PRESIDENT IN PENNSYLVANIA. HIS THREE SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER BY HIS FIRST WIFE, SURVIVE HIM. HIS YOUNGEST SON THOS. ALEXANDER, PH. D. IS THE WELL KNOWN INSTRUCTOR IN COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, N. Y. CITY.

HARSH FAMILY

WHEN NANCY MCKAY WAS A YOUNG GIRL IT WAS THE CUSTOM TO HOLD A "COMMUNION SEASON" SERIES OF MEETINGS ON PIGEON CREEK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. ONE YEAR 1831, GRANDMOTHER WAS THERE AND MET A YOUNG LUTHERAN, DANIEL HARSH FROM BETHLEHAM TOWNSHIP, WASHINGTON COUNTY. THEY WERE MARRIED

IN WASHINGTON PENNSYLVANIA 1833 ON THE 2ND OF MAY. THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH THE FRAGRANCE OF WILD CRABAPPLE BLOOMS AND THEIR PINK LOVLINESS GRACED THE FIREPLACES AND MANTELS. THE BRIDE WORE A HEAVY PURPLE SILK GOWN WITH A LIGHT BLUE GIRDLE WITH A LARGE STEEL BUCKLE. HER SLIPPERS WERE LIGHT BLUE "PERNELLE". THE DRESS HAD A CHEMOISETTE OF WHITE BOBINETTE. SHE WORE HER HAIR IN CURLS GATHERED AT THE TOP OF HER HEAD. ONE LONG CURL FELL GRACEFULLY FROM HER LEFT EAR OVER HER SHOULDER. I AM PRETTY SURE A LARGE BACK COMB MUST HAVE HELD THE CURLS IN PLACE, BECAUSE I HAVE HEARD HER TELL OF HANDING HER COMB TO HER HUSBAND WHO PUT IT IN HIS HAT WHILE THEY FORDED A STREAM WHEN SHE WAS RIDING ON A PILLION BEHIND HIM ON HORSEBACK.

GRANDMOTHER HAD HEAVY BLACK CURLY HAIR. IT WAS VERY HEAVY AND FULL OF WAVES TO HER LAST DAYS WHEN IT HAD GROWN SNOW WHITE. GRANDMOTHER SAID THAT THIS WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER HUSBAND'S PARENTS WEDDING, AND SHE SAID IT WAS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY. HOWEVER, I CHECKED UP ON THE DEATH DATES AND BIRTHDATES OF THEM, IT DID NOT SEEM PROBABLE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN, FOR PIONEER MARRIAGES WERE OFTEN UNBELIEVABLY YOUTHFUL ONES. (I INCLINE TO THINK IT WAS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY.)

DANIEL HARSH TOOK HIS BRIDE TO LIVE ON A FARM NEAR CLAYSVILLE NOT SO FAR FROM WASHINGTON, HER OLD HOME. I THINK SHE SAID IT WAS ABOUT 16 MILES FROM WASHINGTON. IT WAS PROBABLY IN EMWELL TOWNSHIP SINCE THAT IS THE PLACE OF BIRTH OF THE ELDEST SON WILLIAM MCKEE HARSH. PHILLIP, THE SECOND CHILD WAS BORN IN 1836 AND SINCE THEY MOVED TO DANIEL'S PARENTS IN 1835, HE MUST HAVE BEEN BORN THERE. HE WAS NAMED PHILLIP FOR HIS GRANDFATHER HARSH WHICH PLEASED THE ELDER PHILLIP SINCE "HE WAS THE FIRST OF 40 GRANDCHILDREN TO BE NAMED FOR HIM." THE OTHERS HAD CHOSEN OTHER FAMILY NAMES. NANCY WAS PLEASED TO LIVE IN THE OLD BRICK HOME OF THE HARSHES WITH THE WELL TILLED FIELDS AND MANY BARN AND BUILDINGS. PHILLIP AND HIS WIFE WANTED THE YOUNG COUPLE TO STAY WITH THEM IN THEIR DECLINING YEARS AND RECEIVE A DEED TO THE FARM. DANIEL WAS THE MOTHER'S FAVORITE AND I FANCY WAS NAMED FOR HER BROTHER DANIEL STRYKER. ANOTHER SON, LEVI, UNMARRIED, WAS AT HOME ALSO I BELIEVE. ANYWAY, THE LEVI IN HIS SON'S NAME WAS FOR THE BROTHER OF DANIEL.

GRANDMOTHER ALWAYS SAID SHE HAD THE BEST MOTHER-IN-LAW IN THE WORLD. SHE TAUGHT THE TOWN GIRLS THE WAY TO WORK AND TO BE A WIFE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH WAY. SHE SHIELDED HER FROM THE CRITICISM OF HER OWN DAUGHTERS AND MADE THINGS EASIER FOR NANCY. GRANDMOTHER WAS RAISED IN A FAMILY OF GIRLS WITH NO BOYS OR MEN, SO SHE KNEW NOTHING OF MAKING MEN'S CLOTHES WHICH WAS A PART OF THE WIFE'S DUTY. WHEN SHE TRIED TO CUT OUT THE FIRST PAIR OF TROUSERS FOR HER HUSBAND, SHE WAS AT A LOSS, AND HER HUSBAND SMILING AND EFFICIENT, CUT THEM OUT FOR HER TO MAKE. WHEN IT CAME TO SHIRTS, SHE COULD DO THAT BETTER, AND HER FIRST ONE WAS SUCH A FINE EXAMPLE OF NEEDLEWORK, THAT HER MOTHER-IN-LAW SAID TO HER "NANCY, YOU NEED NOT TELL THE GIRLS" (MEANING HER MARRIED DAUGHTERS) "THAT THIS IS YOUR FIRST SHIRT, FOR IT IS BEAUTIFULLY DONE." THEN WHEN THEY STILL LIVED IN CLAYSVILLE, ONE MORNING SHE CAME IN AND SAID, "NANCY I THOUGHT I WOULD WEED YOUR GARDEN, FOR THE GIRLS ARE COMING OVER TO SEE YOU SOON, AND I WANTED IT ALL IN GOOD SHAPE."

IT WAS PLEASANT IN THE OLD HOMESTEAD AND GRANDMOTHER WANTED TO STAY THERE AND HAVE THE PLACE AFTER THE DEATH OF THE OLD FOLKS BUT DANIEL SAID "NO". HE WANTED TO GO WEST TO OHIO. SO NANCY LIKE HER GRANDMOTHER McCULLY HAD TO GO TO A NEW COUNTRY, BUT SHE ALWAYS LIKED PIONEER LIFE AND AFTER THEY MOVED TO OHIO SHE NEVER WANTED TO^{go} BACK TO PENNSYLVANIA.

SHE NEVER SAW THE HARSHES AFTER SHE LEFT, FOR THE OLD FOLKS SOON FOLLOWED THEIR SONS TO CARROLL COUNTY OHIO AND ONLY TWO OF THE DAUGHTERS I BELIEVE REMAINED WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

IN CARROLL COUNTY OHIO THERE IS A "HARSH CEMETERY" AND MANY OF THE FAMILY ARE BURIED THERE. I HAVE COPIES OF TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS FROM TWO OR THREE SOURCES. THAT WAS THE WAY I OBTAINED THE PHILLIP HARSH AND HIS WIFE CHRISTINE'S BIRTH AND DEATH DATES. WHEN DANIEL AND NANCY HARSH

The first of these is the fact that the...
the second is the fact that the...
the third is the fact that the...

the fourth is the fact that the...
the fifth is the fact that the...
the sixth is the fact that the...

the seventh is the fact that the...
the eighth is the fact that the...
the ninth is the fact that the...

the tenth is the fact that the...
the eleventh is the fact that the...
the twelfth is the fact that the...

the thirteenth is the fact that the...
the fourteenth is the fact that the...
the fifteenth is the fact that the...
the sixteenth is the fact that the...
the seventeenth is the fact that the...
the eighteenth is the fact that the...
the nineteenth is the fact that the...
the twentieth is the fact that the...

the twenty-first is the fact that the...
the twenty-second is the fact that the...
the twenty-third is the fact that the...

the twenty-fourth is the fact that the...
the twenty-fifth is the fact that the...
the twenty-sixth is the fact that the...

the twenty-seventh is the fact that the...
the twenty-eighth is the fact that the...
the twenty-ninth is the fact that the...
the thirtieth is the fact that the...

WENT TO OHIO, THEY SETTLED IN CLINTON COUNTY OHIO NEAR SABINA WHERE HER SISTER JEMIMA AND FAMILY LIVED. I THINK THE HALLAMS ALSO LIVED THERE OR IN THAT VICINITY. THEIR HOME WAS PART LOG, I THINK, AS IT IS IN A WOODED DISTRICT AND THE LAND HAD TO BE CLEARED. GRANDMA ATTRIBUTED HER HUSBAND'S DEATH TO OVERWORK IN CLEARING LAND.

IT WAS IN 1837 THAT THEY MOVED TO OHIO AND IN 1838 THE FIRST DAUGHTER MARY MCKEE WAS BORN, ALEXANDER IN 1842, JAMES B. 1845 AND ANDREW F. IN 1847. DANIEL AGAIN BEGAN TO PLAN TO GO FARTHER WEST TO ILLINOIS. GRANDMOTHER'S SISTER MARGARET LIVED IN EUREKA ILLINOIS NEAR PEORIA, SO SHE WAS WILLING TO GO TO ILLINOIS. JULY 1848 DANIEL HARSH DIED OF "BILLIOUS COLIC", WHICH I PRESUME MAY HAVE BEEN ACUTE APPENDICITIS. IT WAS VERY SUDDEN, AND HIS PLANS WERE ALL MADE TO SELL OUT AND MOVE WEST. HE WAS BURIED IN WILSON'S GRAVEYARD MILLS FARMS CLINTON COUNTY OHIO NEAR SABINA. HIS WIDOW COMPLETED THE CONTRACT TO SELL AND FINISHED PACKING AND MADE READY TO START. HER NEPHEW FRANCIS MCCULLY MCELROY, WHO WAS OLDER THAN HER ELDEST SON WILLIAM (14), ACCOMPANIED THEM. GRANDMOTHER RODE IN A LIGHT BUGGY AND THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS WERE IN A WAGON OR WAGONS. I DO NOT THINK THERE WERE MANY HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR PEOPLE LIVED SIMPLY THEN. THEY ARRIVED IN THE LATE FALL AND RENTED A HOUSE IN MAGNOLIA NEAR EUREKA. IN THE SPRING THE YOUNGEST CHILD WAS BORN, ALVIRA JANE. THEN THE FAMILY PUSHED ON AND WENT NORTH INTO BUREAU COUNTY AND BOUGHT LAND IN MILO TOWNSHIP NEAR TISKILWA. THERE GRANDMOTHER KNOWN TO ALL THE COUNTRY AS THE "WIDOW HARSH" RAISED HER FAMILY. SHE HAD ONLY ENOUGH CASH TO BUY SOME FLOUR AND A COW AFTER PAYING FOR HER LAND. MARY AND WILLIAM MARRIED AND GRANDMA WITH PHILLIP AND ALEXANDER AND JENNIE AGAIN MOVED WESTWARD TO IOWA. WILLIAM STAYED IN THE OLD HOME AND ANDREW REMAINED WITH HIM, AND JAMES WAS TEACHING SCHOOL. THE FAMILY HAD EXPECTED TO GO MISSOURI, BUT THE BORDER WARFARE WAS ON AND THEY STAYED IN DAVIS COUNTY ONE SEASON AND THEN CAME INTO UNION COUNTY AND BOUGHT IN HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP THE FIRST LAND THAT HAD BEEN BROKEN IN THAT TOWNSHIP. THERE WAS A SMALL HOUSE AND THE WATER IN THE WELL WAS GOOD. GRANDMA ALWAYS LOOKED FOR GOOD WATER FOR HER HOME, BUT THE ODD THING ABOUT IT WAS THAT SHE HERSELF NEVER DRANK WATER AT ALL. I NEVER SAW HER TAKE A DRINK OF IT EXCEPT UNDER DOCTOR'S ORDERS, AND THEN SHE HAD TO "BREAK IT" WITH FRUIT JUICE OR DISSOLVED JELLY. SHE USED TO DRINK MILK AND BUTTERMILK GENEROUSLY INSTEAD OF WATER.

THE ONLY FRUIT WAS THE WILD PLUMS, HAWS, GOOSEBERRIES, GRAPES AND CRABAPPLES. THESE GRANDMOTHER USED WITH SORGHUM FOR SWEETENING. THE NEW LAND RAISED WONDERFUL MELONS AND SHE USED THE PULP OF THE MUSKMELLONS AND BOILED IT DOWN WITH THE PLUMS TO MAKE PLUM BUTTER. SHE MADE HER OWN CHEESE AND CORN STARCH FOR PUDDINGS AS WELL AS FOR CLOTHES. SHE WOVE AND SEWED AND KNIT AND DID ALL THE THINGS PIONEER WOMEN HAD TO DO. DURING THE WAR NO ONE HAD SUGAR IN RURAL STATES LIKE IOWA. THEY MADE THEIR COFFEE FROM ROASTED GRAINS, AND WHAT THEY COULD NOT MAKE, THEY DID WITHOUT.

IN 1863 ALEXANDER DIED FROM ILLNESS, POISON, PROBABLY PTOMAIN POISONING, AND HIS HOSPITAL DOCTOR OR OFFICER, WROTE TO HIS MOTHER. WHEN JAMES HEARD OF IT, HE FELT THAT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO CARRY ON, SO HE LEFT HIS SCHOOL WHERE HE WAS TEACHING AND ENLISTED IN THE 148TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS IN CO. K. HE SERVED TILL THE END OF THE WAR. DURING THE CIVIL WAR THERE WERE HARDLY ANY ABLE BODIED MEN LEFT IN THE COUNTY SO THE WORK WAS DONE BY THE BOYS AND OLD MEN AND WOMEN. GRANDMOTHER'S HEALTH HAD BEEN POOR FOR A FEW YEARS AND THAT WAS ONE REASON SHE CAME TO IOWA, FOR A CHANGE. SHE WAS WELL AGAIN AND WORKED HARD AND LONG HOURS AS DID ALL THE WOMEN THEN. WHEN SHE CAME TO IOWA SHE RODE ON A RAILROAD TRAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME; HER OTHER TRIPS HAD BEEN MADE OVERLAND BY TEAM. SHE WAS PAST 50 WHEN SHE HAD HER FIRST TRAIN RIDE AND PAST 100 WHEN SHE HAD HER FIRST AUTO RIDE.

THE BURLINGTON RAILROAD CAME ONLY TO OTTUMWA AND THEY CROSSED THE RIVER BY FERRY AT EDDYVILLE THEN. THE REST OF THE TRIP WAS BY HORSE POWER.

THE LITTLE HOUSE ON THE NEW FARM WAS BUT ONE ROOM AND A LOFT OR LOW CEILINGED ROOM ON THE UPPER FLOOR. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEY BEGAN TO BUILD AN ADDITION, A LARGE KITCHEN AND PANTRY. THIS WAS WAINSCOTED WITH NATIVE BLACK WALNUT. ONE OF THE BROAD BOARD ENDS WAS UNUSED AND GRANDMOTHER TOOK IT FOR HER BREAD OR MOLDING BOARD. SHE USED IT AFTERWARD WHEN SHE LIVED AT 504 S. PINE STREET IN CRESTON. HER GRANDDAUGHTER MARY ATWOOD HAS IT NOW IN HER HOME IN OREGON.

AS A CHILD I LOVED TO GO TO GRANDMA'S AND SEE THE LITTLE CUPBOARD UNDER THE STAIRS IN THE FRONT ROOM WHERE SHE KEPT HER JELLY AND PRESERVES. WE ALWAYS ATE IN THE LONG KITCHEN AND WHEN THE WHITE TABLE CLOTH WAS ALMOST COVERED WITH THE MANY LARGE DISHES OF CHICKEN, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, BREAD, CHEESE, TURNIPS OR SQUASH AND OTHER VEGETABLES, I ALWAYS LOOKED TO SEE THE TWO LARGE GLASS DISHES FILLED WITH CRANBERRY SAUCE ONE AT EACH END OF THE TABLE AND THE CELERY GLASS WITH CELERY IN THE CENTER. THE JELLY GLEAMED IN THE CLEAR GLASS DISHES OF SMALLER SIZE, AND I HAD SEEN GRANDMA GET IT OUT OF THE LITTLE CUPBOARD WITH A PIECE OF LETTER PAPER PASTED OVER THE TOP WITH EDGES CLIPPED TO MAKE IT FIT THE GLASS.

IN ONE CORNER OF THE FRONT ROOM WAS A BED ON WHICH WAS A WHITE COVERLET MADE OF HEAVY MUSLIN AND HEAVILY EMBROIDERED IN WHITE DARNING COTTON OR CANDLE WICKING. GRANDMA HAD TWO OF THESE ONE MORE ELABORATE THAN THE OTHER. THEY ARE IN THE FAMILIES OF AUNT MARY DONLIN'S CHILDREN.

GRANDMA WAS NEVER TOO TIRED OR TOO BUSY TO GIVE UP HER FANCY WORK. IN SPITE OF HER KNITTING WEAVING, SPINNING, SEWING AND HOUSEWORK, ALONG WITH GARDEN WORK, SHE KEPT SOME FANCY WORK ON HAND. EVERY TABLE OR CHEST OF DRAWERS HAD A COVER OF WHITE MUSLIN WITH A FRINGE OR BORDER OF NETTED LACE. THIS WAS MADE ON A NETTING NEEDLE AND WITH LITTLE PIECES OF SMOOTH WOOD TO USE TO GAUGE THE SIZE OF THE MESH. I HAVE A PIECE SHE MADE FOR ME AFTER SHE WAS IN HER 90'S. IT WAS NOT SO EVEN AS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, BUT IT IS LOVELY. SHE MADE IT WITH RATHER COARSE THREAD, BUT SOME OF HER EARLY WORK WAS VERY FINE.

SHE PIECED QUILTS ALL THE TIME, FROM WOOLEN AND COTTON AND SILK. QUILTS FOR UTILITY AND WARMTH, AND FOR BEAUTY AND DURABILITY, AND FOR LESS SERVICEABLE USE AS THOSE OF SILK. THE GREAT BEAUTY OF HER COTTON QUILTS WAS THE FINE AND CLOSE WORK OF HER HAND QUILTING. WHEN SHE WAS IN HER NINETIES SHE BEGAN A QUILT FOR MY MOTHER WHO ADMIRERED HER QUILTS SO MUCH, BUT NEVER RECEIVED ONE. THIS PATTERN WAS "THE TREE OF LIFE" AND HAD HUNDREDS OF PIECES IN IT, AND SHE CUT AND SEWED AND QUILTED THEM ALL. THE WORK WAS DONE LARGELY WITHOUT HER GLASSES AS HER SECOND SIGHT BEGAN ABOUT THAT TIME. THE QUILT TOOK FIRST PRIZE AT THE FAIR IN THE FALL OF THAT YEAR AND SHE BEGAN IT AFTER HER BIRTHDAY IN JUNE. I THINK ALL OF HER GRANDCHILDREN HAD QUILTS OF HER MAKING. SHE WAS ACTIVE IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AFTON UNTIL THE PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED AND BUILT IN THE COUNTRY NEAR HER HOME. SHE WAS A REGULAR ATTENDANT AND SUPPORTER OF HER CHURCH AND BELIEVED ONE SHOULD GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO QUOTE HER "NOT TO BE A PAUPER ON THE CHURCH."

WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO UNION COUNTY THE INDIANS ROAMED OVER THE PRAIRIES AND HAD CAMPS TO WHICH THEY RETURNED AT REGULAR SEASONS. THEY SOLD BEAD WORK AND BOUGHT OR BEGGED FOOD AND SUPPLIES. SOME OF THEIR BEADWORK SHE COPIED AND I USED TO SEE BEAD FRINGE ON SOME OF HER PINE CUSHIONS AND ORNAMENTS. "AIR CASTLES" MADE OF WHITE AND GOLD PAPER HUNG FROM THE LIVING ROOM CEILINGS. CUSHIONS FOR THE CHAIRS WERE OF HEAVY WOOLEN CLOTH (MEN'S DISCARDED CLOTHING USUALLY) AND THESE WERE FINISHED WITH BLANKET STITCH AROUND THE EDGES, AND SOME WERE IN TRIPLE LAYERS OF GRADUATED SIZES, SOME WERE MADE WITH TUFTED FLOWERS OF YARN. OF COURSE, THE WOVEN RAG CARPETS WERE THE REGULAR ONES IN USE, BUT THE "HIT AND MISS" STYLE WAS ONLY FOR KITCHEN USE, THE OTHERS IN STRIPES AND SOME WERE VERY PRETTY. MOST OF THE DYES WERE HOMEMADE AND FAST COLORS MADE TO STAND HARD SCRUBBING WITH "SOFT SOAP". WHEN THE NEW HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1877 I THINK, THERE WAS A PARLOR SACRED TO SUNDAY USE, BUT EVEN THEN WE ONLY WALKED IN AND THEN WENT BACK TO THE SUNNY LARGE SITTING ROOM WHERE THE DAYBED WAS PLUMP WITH ITS CORNHUSK MATTRESS AND FEATHER CUSHIONS. THERE WAS A BRUSSELLS CARPET IN THE PARLOR AND LACE CURTAINS AT THE WINDOWS, A TABLE AND CANE SEAT CHAIRS OF WALNUT COMPLETED THE FURNISHINGS.

DURING THE CIVIL WAR GRANDMOTHER AND HER SON PHILLIP AND DAUGHTER JENNIE LIVED AND WAITED FOR THE NEWS WHICH CAME LATE AND SELDOM FROM THE BATTLEFRONTS. THE POST OFFICE WAS AT HIGHLAND AND DR. DAY WAS THE POSTMASTER. ONE DAY WHEN SHE DROVE OVER TO THE OFFICE FOR MAIL, THE TRAGIC NEWS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION HAD JUST ARRIVED. THE GROUP WAITING FOR THE MAIL WERE STUNNED AT FIRST, AND THEN ONE MAN RUSHED OUT TO THE ROAD AND THREW UP HIS HAT AND GAVE THREE CHEERS. GRANDMOTHER RUSHED OUT AT RAPID PACE AND SAID, CALLING HIM BY NAME, "IF I EVER HEAR YOU SAY THAT AGAIN I WILL SHOOT YOU . . . " I LOST A SON IN THE ARMY AND NOW HAVE ANOTHER SON DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY, AND IF I EVER KNOW OF YOU SAYING SUCH TRAITOROUS WORDS, I WILL SHOOT YOU MYSELF." THE MAN RATHER SURPRISED, BUT SOMEWHAT ABASHED LEFT. EVIDENTLY HE FELT RATHER ASHAMED OF HIS ACTION, FOR HE DID NOT HOLD RESENTMENT AGAINST HER AND THEIR RELATIONS IN LATER YEARS WERE FRIENDLY.

IN HER YOUTH WHEN A GIRL MARRIED SHE PUT ON A CAP, AND HERS WAS WHITE TILL HER HUSBAND DIED, THEN SHE ALWAYS WORE A BLACK LACE CAP WITH RIBBONS OF BLACK. SHE USUALLY HAD THREE CAPS, ONE OLD ONE FOR WORK, A NEWER ONE FOR AFTERNOONS, AND A BEST ONE FOR CHURCH AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS. SHE ALWAYS WORE HER CAP TUCKING ITS RIBBONS OUT OF SIGHT EVEN WHEN SHE WORE HER BONNET. I HAVE SEEN HER DISCARD HER CAP ON VERY HOT DAYS AT HOME, BUT NEVER WHEN AWAY FROM HER HOUSE. HER CAP WAS ONE OF HER DISTINCTIVE PERSONAL MARKS AND TO ME IT BECAME A PART OF HERSELF, FOR SHE AND IT WERE SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED IN MY MIND. I HAVE ONE OF HER OLD LACE CAPS PUT AWAY AMONG MY KEEPSAKES NOW.

WHEN UNCLE PHILLIP MARRIED BELLE OLIVER IN 1871, GRANDMA CONTINUED TO LIVE IN THE OLD HOUSE AND BECAUSE AUNT BELLE WAS NOT STRONG, GRANDMA WAS STILL HEAD OF THE HOUSE. WHEN AUNT BELLE DIED IN 1879 SHE LEFT THREE CHILDREN WHICH GRANDMA MOTHERED. AFTER UNCLE PHILLIP MARRIED AGAIN, SHE WENT TO LIVE ON A SMALL FARM IN SPAULDING TOWNSHIP, WHICH SHE BOUGHT AND ON WHICH HER YOUNGEST DAUGHTER JENNIE LIVED. A FEW YEARS LATER GRANDMA MOVED TO CRESTON AND LIVED IN A HOUSE PROVIDED FOR HER BY HER SON JAMES. SHE KEPT HOUSE HERE EXCEPT FOR PART OF THE WINTERS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS BEFORE SHE REACHED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY. THAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR FAMILY HISTORY, WHEN GRANDMA REACHED HER 100 MILESTONE.

WE CELEBRATED IT JUNE 14, 1910 IN CRESTON IOWA. IT WAS A GRAND FAMILY REUNION, WONDERFUL WEATHER AS MANY OF THE RELATIVES AS POSSIBLE WERE HOUSE GUESTS WITH HER AT THE HOME OF HER SON JAMES. THE OTHERS WERE WITH RELATIVES AND CLOSE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. ON THE MORNING OF THE DAY GRANDMA "AROSE" EARLY AS USUAL AND WAS READY FOR THE REPORTERS WHO CAME FROM DES MOINES AS WELL AS CRESTON PAPERS. SHE WAS FULL OF HER USUAL DIGNITY AND RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONS WITH HER ACCUSTOMED ALERTNESS AND BREVITY. SHE WAS NOT LOQUACIOUS AS MANY OF US ARE AS WE GROW OLDER, AND HER REPLIES DID NOT WANDER NOR EVADE. IN THE AFTERNOON SHE RECEIVED MANY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND ACQUAINTANCES AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS WHO CALLED TO OFFER CONGRATULATIONS. SHE ENJOYED IT ALL. THE MID-DAY DINNER WAS A FAMILY AFFAIR AND WAS SERVED ON THE LAWN UNDER A TENT OR CANOPY. THE TOASTS WERE GIVEN BY ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM HER OWN CHILDREN, HER GRAND CHILDREN AND HER GREAT GRANDCHILDREN AND HER "INLAWS". GRANDMOTHER GAVE THE BLESSING, THE SAME GRACE SHE ALWAYS SAID, HERSELF. IT WAS SUCH A PLEASANT OCCASION BECAUSE THE HONOREE WAS SO WELL AND ABLE TO ENJOY IT ALL AND TO PARTICIPATE. THE NEXT MORNING SHE TOOK HER FIRST AUTO RIDE AND ACCOMPANIED BY SOME OF HER CHILDREN, SAT FOR MANY PHOTOGRAPHS, ALONE AND WITH GROUPS OF HER FAMILY. THAT EVENING SHE TOOK A LONG COUNTRY DRIVE TO THE OLD HOME PLACE IN HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP AND NEIGHBORHOOD. SHE LIVED THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH HER DAUGHTER MARY IN HOPKINS, MISSOURI, AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE SHE WAS 100 SHE HAD SPENT HER WINTERS THERE, BEFORE SHE GAVE UP HOUSEKEEPING ENTIRELY, WHICH WAS ABOUT 1906, I BELIEVE.

IN 1900 WHEN WE CELEBRATED HER 90TH BIRTHDAY, ALL HER LIVING CHILDREN WERE PRESENT. SHE SAID "NO MORE CELEBRATIONS TILL I REACH 100". SO EACH YEAR WE HAD SMALL FAMILY GATHERINGS UNTIL SHE REACHED THE CENTURY MARK.

SHE LIVED TO PASS HER 102ND YEAR AND WAS CLEAR OF MIND AND SPEECH TILL THE LAST MOMENT, ALTHOUGH HER EYESIGHT HAD FAILED CONSIDERABLY.

IF THIS FAMILY RECORD SEEMS LARGELY BUILT AROUND GRANDMOTHER, NANCY HARSH, IT IS BECAUSE SHE WAS THE LIVING LINK FOR SO MANY YEARS BETWEEN THE REMOTE PAST AND OUR PRESENT. TO HER MEMORY AND LONG LIFE, WE OWE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST. I LISTENED AND FINALLY DECIDED TO WRITE NOTES, LEST I FORGET. I AM GLAD I DID SO, BECAUSE OTHERWISE MUCH WOULD HAVE BEEN MISSING. GRANDMOTHER WAS A STRONG CHARACTER AND SUCH PERSONALITIES USUALLY HAVE FAULTS TOO. NO ONE IS PERFECT. SHE DID A GREAT JOB RAISING A FAMILY OF BOYS IN A PIONEER COMMUNITY, WITH LITTLE MEANS. WHEN HER HUSBAND DIED, HIS FAMILY WANTED HER TO "BIND OUT" THE CHILDREN ACCORDING TO A CUSTOM THEN IN MANY PLACES. SHE WAS INDIGNANT AND THEN AND THERE CUT OFF THE HARSHES FROM HER LIFE. SHE TOLD THEM SHE COULD TAKE CARE OF HER CHILDREN. SHE COMPLETED THE BARGAIN FOR THE SALE OF THE OHIO LAND AND PROMISED THE MAN THAT NONE OF HER CHILDREN WOULD EVER MAKE ANY TROUBLE ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF THE TRANSACTION BECAUSE OF THE MINOR AGES OF ALL. THE CHILDREN NEVER DID. IN SPITE OF HER OWN ABILITY AND HER OWN COMPLETE CONTROL OF HER FAMILY, SHE WAS OPPOSED TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN, AT LEAST POLITICAL RIGHTS. THAT WAS AN INCONSISTANCY I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND.

SHE WAS BROUGHT UP UNDER THE OLD "BLUE PRESBYTERIAN" DOCTRINES AND TAUGHT TO THINK OF THE CATHOLICS AS "PAPISTS" WHO WERE TOTALLY BAD. LIFE CHANGED HER IDEAS AND HER GOOD CATHOLIC NEIGHBORS WERE MUCH ESTEEMED BY HER. SHE ALSO GREW MORE TOLERANT OF THE VERY LIBERAL CHURCHES IN HER LATER YEARS.

SHE LIVED THROUGH MANY CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION, IN POLITICAL PARTIES, RELIGIOUS IDEAS, AND SCIENTIFIC INVENTIONS. SHE SHOOK HANDS WITH GENERAL JACKSON AS A SCHOOL GIRL, AS WELL AS WITH LAFAYETTE.

SHE KNEW OF THE FIRST STEAMBOAT, THE FIRST RAILWAY TRAIN AND THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE. IN HER DAY THE LAST LETTER OF THE ALPHABET HAD THREE DIFFERENT NAMES, IZZARD, ZED, AND ZEC.

WE USED TO THINK NO OTHER CENTURY COULD EVER MATCH HERS, BUT THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE TORN THE VEIL ALMOST FROM THE UNIVERSE ITSELF. ONLY ONE OF HER CHILDREN REACHED THE 100 YEAR AGE, MARY DONLIN, HER ELDEST DAUGHTER. SHE WAS NOT SO FORTUNATE AS HER MOTHER, FOR SHE HAD A STROKE A FEW DAYS BEFORE HER BIRTHDAY AND DID NOT REALIZE WHAT DAY IT WAS NOR REALLY KNEW HER RELATIVES WHO WERE PRESENT.

BUT IN DAVENPORT IOWA ON FEBRUARY 12, 1946, A GREAT ~~GREAT~~ NIECE OF NANCY HARSH HAD A WONDERFUL DAY ON HER 100 BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY. SARAH JANE MCELROY ^{Davenport} CELEBRATED IN A GRAND WAY AND WAS AS WELL AND AS ALERT AS HER GREAT ~~GREAT~~ AUNT.

THE RECORD BOOK OF GRANDMOTHER'S 100TH CELEBRATION HAS THE SIGNATURES OF MANY OF HER CALLERS THAT DAY, AND I HAVE PASTED IN THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS TOO. HOWEVER, THESE LATTER WILL NOT BE LEGIBLE LONG, SO I HAVE WRITTEN THIS TO PRESERVE THE MEMORY FOR THOSE OF THE FUTURE WHO MAY CARE TO READ IT. I HOPE THAT THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES WILL CONTINUE THEIR OWN WHERE THIS LEAVES OFF. I SHALL ADD TO MY OWN AND ALSO TRY TO PREPARE A COMPLETE FAMILY TREE AS FAR AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE IT THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE.

MIMEOGRAPHED BY:

FLORENCE (OLIVER) KESSLER } DAUGHTERS OF EDWARD F. OLIVER, GRANDSON OF NANCY MCKAY HARSH
MAY OLIVER }

Contributed By Grace S. Harsh, National Number

158209 through NANCY McKay HARSH CHAPTER D.A.R.

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